

**FIRE REVIEW TASK FORCE  
CITY OF CHARLESTON  
IMMEDIATE IMPACT RECOMMENDATIONS  
August 17, 2007**

**After an initial review of Charleston Fire Department operations and the circumstances surrounding the deaths of nine Charleston firefighters on June 18, 2007, the Fire Review Task Force makes the following recommendations for immediate implementation:**

**PERSONNEL**

- Establish Assistant to the Chief position
  - Fill with qualified officer on 6 month temporary assignment
- Establish Fire Department Safety Officer position
  - Fill with qualified officer on 6 month temporary assignment
- Public Information Officer
- Minimum of two dispatchers on-duty at all times
- Maintain minimum staffing of three on-duty firefighters at all times on all existing engine and ladder companies (staffing and overtime impacts)
- Incremental movement over two years to achieve four on-duty firefighters on all fire companies (staffing and overtime impacts)

**COMMAND**

- Apply incident command procedures on all incidents (ICS – NIMS procedures)
  - First arriving officer assumes command, performs size-up and provides direction for all others
  - First arriving chief establishes exterior Command Post and remains at Command Post
  - Subsequent arriving higher ranking officer may assume command after command transfer process
  - Safety Officer assigned for working fires and hazardous incidents
  - Rapidly implement personnel accountability system with passports and PAR

**SAFETY**

- Reinforce appropriate use of personal protective clothing and SCBA
- Reinforce the use of seat belts and standard emergency response vehicular operations
- OSHA 2-in/2-out to be followed at all times
- Reinforce management procedure for off-duty firefighter response to emergencies

## **TRAINING**

- Initiate and complete Incident Command and tactical operations training for all officers
- Provide training for all Fire Department members in firefighter safety and survival, risk management, air management, standardized actions for lost/disoriented firefighters, rapid intervention operations, objective-based tactical operations, and other critical firefighter safety procedures
- Provide incident safety officer training for all command officers and health and safety officer training to selected personnel
- Assure that all new firefighters are trained and certified in accordance with South Carolina State standards/NFPA Firefighter II before assignment to emergency duty
  - South Carolina Fire Academy support

## **RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- Increase initial structure fire response to three engines and one ladder
- Utilize the third engine as the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
- Working fire – dispatch Assistant Chief, Second Battalion Chief, 4th engine company and an EMS unit
- Utilize the second-arriving Battalion Chief as the incident safety officer unless staff Safety Officer is on scene
- Communications changes including the elimination of 10 codes and the use of the tactical radio channel for responses

## **WATER SUPPLY**

- Changes in water supply standard operating procedures with near-term transition to large diameter supply hose
- Use of 1-1/2 inch hose, or larger, for interior attack as well as vehicle fires
- Changes to standard nozzle configuration and flow for all handlines